

REMARKS

The telephone interview with Examiner David Sample on December 21, 2005 is acknowledged. Applicant transmitted to the Examiner a copy of a proposed claim (attached hereto as Exhibit A) and asked for the Examiner's opinion as to the format of the claim. The Examiner stated that the claim appeared proper as to formal matters (e.g., definiteness). No prior art was discussed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 14 due to three informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claim 14 in accord with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests removal of this ground of objection.

The Examiner then rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicants respectfully aver that the Examiner has misapplied a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, to claim 13. More particularly, the Examiner states that claim 13 is indefinite without claim 12 to provide context. However, the Examiner's rejection is not understood insofar as claim 13 does not depend from claim 12 (claim 13 recites "An optical glass as defined in claim 9 or 10..."). Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended claim 13 to provide context for the elements of that claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this ground of rejection. If Applicants have misconstrued the Examiner's rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned as soon as possible.

The Examiner then rejected claims 9-10, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richard (U.S. Patent No. 4,612,292). In response, Applicants have amended claims 9-10 and 14. More particularly, the Richard patent discloses the presence of Na₂O in quantities of 6.4% by mass (Col. 10, line 29). Therefore, Applicants have narrowed the claims by limiting Na₂O to being present in quantities from 6.5-14% by mass in claims 9 and 10; and to being present in quantities from 10.9-14% by mass in claim 14. Thus, Richard does not anticipate the claims as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this ground of rejection.

The Examiner then rejected claims 10, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Armistead (U.S. Patent No. 2,431,980). In response, Applicants have amended claims 10 and 14 (Col. 3, line 47). More particularly, Armistead discloses the presence of Na₂O in quantities of 2.0-5.6%. Claim 10 as amended claims a range of Na₂O from 6.5-14% by mass and claim 14 as amended claims a range of Na₂O from 10.9-14% by


mass. Thus, Armistead does not anticipate the claims as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this ground of rejection.

The Examiner then rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miwa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,057,464). In response, Applicants have amended claim 14. More particularly, Miwa discloses the presence of Na₂O from 0.2-10.8% by mass (Table 1 in Column 3-4). Claim 14 as amended claims a range of Na₂O from 10.9-14% by mass. Thus, Miwa does not anticipate the claim as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of this ground of rejection.

In light of the foregoing applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application are in proper form for allowance.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT A

Proposed Claim Discussed During Interview

A method of providing an optical glass for lenses of an optical system of an i-line stepper, said method comprising providing in said i-line stepper a lens made from an optical glass having a composition comprising in mass%:

SiO ₂	40-70%
PbO	14-50%
Na ₂ O and/or K ₂ O in the total amount of	8-17%
where	
Na ₂ O	5-14%
and	
K ₂ O	0-15%
B ₂ O ₃	0-5%
As ₂ O ₃	0-1%
Sb ₂ O ₃	0-1%
TiO ₂	0-0.2%
Al ₂ O ₃	0-0.4% and
BaO	0-5%

fluoride or fluorides substituting for the above oxide or oxides partially entirely, a total amount of fluorine contained in the fluorides being 0-2%

Li ₂ O	0-2%
CaO	0-2%
SrO	0-2%

the total amount of one or more of the Li₂O, CaO, SrO, BaO and Al₂O₃ ingredients being 5% or below.